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24 August 1965

NOT SENT TO DCI


MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: Coverage of Hainan Island
by High Resolution Photography

Problem

1. Program B of the National Reconnaissance Office today asked for guidance as to the need for U-2 coverage of Hainan Island.

Recommendation

2. The Chairman recommends that this mission be flown. The USIB decision of March (USIB-D-41.14/223; COMOR-D-25/154) was mindful of the critical situation in the area and it is noted that the priority targets  selected as pertinent to this situation continue to be reviewed weekly by COMOR. Furthermore, in such an area there is a tendency to move things around and in this instance there have been reports of unidentified activities. It is planned to fly this mission with the 112B (Delta B) camera which has a higher resolution than that normally flown in the U-2. This should enhance the chances of more precise coverage although there is a sacrifice to surveillance because of the narrow swath width. 25X1

Discussion

3. The question was raised because on 11 August, when a mission was planned, this office queried DIA and CIA as to the need



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for coverage and advised Program B against that particular mission. This decision was based on the following factors:

a. All five priority targets on Hainan Island had been covered



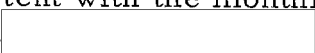
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b. Other intelligence had not surfaced anything so ominous that coverage as soon as 11 August seemed necessary.

c. It appeared more important to watch for weather breaks elsewhere on the southeastern mainland with emphasis on Ping Hsiang.

4. Today the consensus of the Photo Working Group of COMOR is as follows:

a. The majority feel that the March 1965 USIB requirement is valid and should be honored. This calls for a weekly sampling of a quarter of the priority targets and monthly coverage of all targets. Coverage of Hainan Island is now consistent with the monthly requirement and together with



would help to meet weekly requirement.

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b. The CIA dissented on the basis that its findings of 11 August are unchanged. It considers that the USIB guidance of March must be reviewed in the light of the current situation and, therefore, reiterates that as nothing ominous has been reported since 11 August there is no need to cover Hainan Island at this time.



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Executive Secretary
Committee on Overhead Reconnaissance

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